

Message Text

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70

ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 NEA-10 ISO-00 PC-15

IGA-02 MMS-03 SPC-03 A-01 AID-20 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 L-03 NSC-10 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 H-03

PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 /194 R

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AF/RA:RGRIFFIN (DRAFT)
NEA/RA:TGRANT (DRAFT)
PC/ACTION:TDOYLE (SUBS)
EA/RA:LMCNUTT (DRAFT)
EUR:JRENDAHL (CRAFT)
ARA/USOAS:GMONSMA (DRAFT)
IO/CMD:DFORMAN

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R 281731Z SEP 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA
AMEMBASSY COTONOU
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
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AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
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AMEMBASSY BERN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG,UN, EAID, US

SUBJECT: U.S. INITIATIVE TO MERGE INTERNATIONAL SECRE-
TARIAT FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICES AND UN VOLUNTEERS
PROGRAM

1. SUMMARY: DEPT AND PEACE CORPS WISH INITIATE PROCESS FOR MERGER OF ISVS WITH UNV AIMED AT MORE EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM. ACTION: ADDRESSEES REQUESTED TO INFORM HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS OF OUR PLANS, SOLICIT THEIR COOPERATION AND REPORT RESULTS TO DEPT ASAP. END SUMMARY.

2. DEPT AND PEACE CORPS BELIEVE PRESENT TIME PROPITIOUS FOR INITIATING PROCESS TO MERGE FUNCTIONS INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR VOLUNTEER SERVICES (ISVS) AND UN VOLUNTEERS (UNV) PROGRAM BY EARLY 1975, GIVEN UPCOMING ELECTION OF ISVS SECRETARY-GENERAL AT ISVS 15TH COUNCIL SESSION, OCTOBER 10, 1973, AND RECENT APPOINTMENT OF JOHN GORDON OF CANADIAN VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AS UNV COORDINATOR TO REPLACE ASSAD SADRY.

3. WILLIAM WHITE OF PEACE CORPS/ACTION HAS JUST CONCLUDED ROUND OF DISCUSSIONS WITH OFFICIALS IN BERN,BONN, COPENHAGEN, THE HAGUE AND PARIS TO SOLICIT SUPPORT AND COOPERATION OF MAJOR ISVS DONOR GOVERNMENTS. WHILE SOME GOVERNMENTS EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS, MAINLY RE SHORTNESS OF TIME

PRIOR TO 15TH COUNCIL SESSION AND IMPORTANCE OF PROTECTING ISVS CONCEPT OF VOLUNTEERISM FROM UN BUREAUCRACY, GENERAL RESPONSE WAS FAVORABLE. WHITE ALSO MADE FULL EXPLANATION
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OUR PLAN TO ISVS SEC-GEN ZOLLNER (DAHOMAY) WHO RESPONDED HE WOULD SUPPORT MERGER WITH UNV IN PRINCIPLE. PRIOR THESE DISCUSSIONS WE HAD ALREADY INFORMED ISVS OF INTENDED CUTS IN U.S. GOVERNMENT VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS, A STEP DESIGNED TO PUSH MERGER PROCESS. WE BELIEVE OTHER DONOR COUNTRIES, LIKE US, WILL BE INCREASINGLY HARD PRESSED TO JUSTIFY SUPPORT FOR TWO INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS. ALSO, THERE IS INCREASING LIKELIHOOD OF JURISDICTIONAL DISPUTES AS EACH ORGANIZATION SHOWS TENDENCY TO ENCROACH ON OTHER'S FIELD OF ACTIVITY.

4. U.S. GOVERNMENT REMAINS FULLY COMMITTED TO PRINCIPLE OF INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERISM AND WILL SUPPORT SINGLE

PROGRAM EFFECTIVELY ADMINISTERED AND PROGRAMMED. WE BELIEVE UNV IS PREFERABLE VEHICLE BECAUSE AS PART OF UN SYSTEM IT HAS FAR BROADER MEMBERSHIP THAN ISVS AND USES UNDP RESOURCES. HOWEVER, UNV'S PRESENT MANDATE WILL HAVE TO BE ENLARGED TO INCLUDE ASSISTANCE TO NATIONAL VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS (A FUNCTION CURRENTLY CARRIED OUT BY ISVS) AND MORE DYNAMIC DIRECTION FOUND IF IT IS TO CONTINUE SOLID ACHIEVEMENTS OF ISVS. UNDP AND UNV OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE HAVE DISCUSSED MERGER PLAN HAVE EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR PRINCIPLE OF ENLARGED UNV MANDATE TO INCLUDE SOME ISVS FUNCTIONS.

5. BACKGROUND: ISVS WAS ESTABLISHED IN 1962 TO PROVIDE CENTRAL CLEARINGHOUSE FOR NATIONAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS AND CONDUIT FOR ASSISTANCE TO DOMESTIC VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS. ISVS IS FUNDED BY VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS OF ISVS COUNCIL MEMBERS, WITH USG LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR (28 PERCENT). INITIALLY IN WASHINGTON, ISVS NOW LOCATED IN GENEVA. IN 1970 UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED RESOLUTION 2659 (XXV) ESTABLISHING UNV PROGRAM AS A PART OF UNDP. UNV PROGRAM, HEADQUARTERED IN GENEVA WITH COORDINATOR APPOINTED BY UNDP ADMINISTRATOR, CONTRACTED WITH ISVS TO USE LATTER'S CLEARINGHOUSE FOR RECRUITING, SELECTING AND TRAINING UN VOLUNTEERS. THIS ARRANGEMENT HAS BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR PLACING MORE THAN 80 PERCENT OF UN VOLUNTEERS IN FIELD AND WAS RECENTLY EXTENDED THROUGH JUNE 1974.

6. IN TWO AND ONE-HALF YEARS OF OPERATIONS UNV HAS PLACED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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171 VOLUNTEERS FROM 30 COUNTRIES, INCLUDING 11 LDC'S, IN FIELD. WE ARE DISAPPOINTED WITH THIS RECORD AND BELIEVE IT COULD HAVE BEEN FAR BETTER.

7. AT 16TH SESSION OF UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL IN JUNE 1973, WE URGED BOTH UNV AND ISVS GIVE SERIOUS THOUGHT TO BETTER JOINT UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES AND EXPERIENCES. WE ALSO MADE KNOWN OUR CONCERN LEST UNV EXPAND INTO FIELD OF DOMESTIC PROGRAMS UNDER PRESENT MANDATE. ON OTHER HAND, AT 14TH ISVS COUNCIL MEETING MAY 1973, WE VOTED AGAINST RESOLUTION (SUBSEQUENTLY PASSED) ASSIGNING HIGH PRIORITY TO NEW MULTINATIONAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS (ESTABLISHED IN PANAMA, YEMEN AND CHILE) BECAUSE WE BELIEVE SUCH PROGRAMS DUPLICATE UNV EFFORTS. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT SEVERAL COUNTRIES, BOTH DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING, HAVE BEEN LESS FORTHCOMING TOWARDS UNV THAN THEY MIGHT HAVE OTHERWISE BEEN BECAUSE OF THEIR SUPPORT FOR ISVS.

8. ACTION REQUESTED: ADDRESSEE POSTS ARE REQUESTED, UNLESS THEY PERCEIVE OVERRIDING OBJECTION, TO MAKE CONTACT WITH APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS OF HOST GOVERNMENTS, ALL

OF WHICH ARE MEMBERS OF ISVS COUNCIL, TO INFORM THEM OF U.S. VIEWS, DRAWING ON ABOVE INFORMATION. WE WOULD LIKE UNDERTAKE INITIATIVE AT 15TH ISVS COUNCIL SESSION SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 10 IN GENEVA AND AT UNDP GOVERNING COUNCIL SESSION IN JANUARY TO EFFECT COURSE OF ACTION LEADING TO MERGER. WE WELCOME VIEWS ON AND SUPPORT FOR MERGER FROM OTHER COUNCIL GOVERNMENTS PRIOR TO ISVS OCTOBER COUNCIL SESSION.

9. FOR INFO ADDRESSEES BERN, BONN, COPENHAGEN, THE HAGUE, PARIS: MISSIONS MAY WISH INFORM HOST GOVERNMENT, AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL OF FOREIGN OFFICE, OF U.S. INITIATIVE IN LDC CAPITALS IN ORDER STIMULATE SIMILAR ACTION THEIR PART.

10. ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED REPLY BY OCTOBER 4 AND REPEAT REPLIES TO USUN AND U.S. MISSION GENEVA.

11. FYI. FOLLOWING PERSONS REPRESENTED THEIR GOVERNMENTS AT 14TH COUNCIL SESSION, MAY 1973:
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ARGENTINA: RICARDO RAMAYON, PERMANENT MISSION,
GENEVA.

CHILE: ROBERTO HERNAN MEERSHON SKUDIN, MINISTRY
OF EDUCATION, SANTIAGO.

MRS. ELINA BUCCHI DE YEPEZ, PERMANENT
MISSION, GENEVA.

INDIA: AMBASSADOR PURNENDU KUMAR BANERJEE,
PERMANENT MISSION GENEVA.

ISRAEL: MOSHE MELAMED, PERMANENT MISSION,
GENEVA.

IVORY COAST: AMBASSADOR BENIE NIOUPIN,
PERMANENT MISSION, GENEVA.

LIBERIA: AMBASSADOR DAVID M. THOMAS,
PERMANENT MISSION, GENEVA.

PHILIPPINES: RENATO A. URQUIOLA, PERMANENT
MISSION, GENEVA.

THAILAND: APILAS OSTANANDA, DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION,
BANGKOK.

PRASERT MASOODI, PERMANENT MISSION,
GENEVA.

ZAIRE: YAKEMBE YOKO, PERMANENT MISSION, GENEVA.

IRAN: MUSTAFA DABIRI, PERMANENT MISSION, GENEVA.

COLOMBIA: JOAQUIN FONSECA, PERMANENT MISSION,
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GENEVA.

JORDAN: AMBASSADOR I. ZREIKAT, PERMANENT
MISSION, GENEVA.

PANAMA: (13TH SESSION, JUNE 1972)

AMBASSADOR JOSE MARIA ESPINO GONZALEZ,
PERMANENT MISSION, GENEVA.

OCTAVIO FERRER ANGUIZOLA, PERMANENT
MISSION, GENEVA. KISSINGER

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SANTIAGO
SAN JOSE
BOGOTA
COTONOU
SANTO DOMINGO
NEW DELHI

TEL AVIV
TEHRAN
ABIDJAN
AMMAN
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